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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GROUND WATER CLEANUP VIEWS SOUGHT

SPOKANE- Public views on how best to clean ground waters contaminated by the Colbert Landfill in northeast Spokane county are being sought by the Department of Ecology.

Extensive studies on the source, nature and extent of the contamination have been completed. Ecology is now seeking public comment on various cleanup alternatives and then will recommend one to the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the actual cleanup work.

The investigation and study reports are available for public review in three Spokane area locations. In addition, Ecology will hold a public meeting to discuss the report and alternatives on May 28 at the Colbert Elementary school, East 4526 Green Bluff road, starting at 7 p.m.

Public comments will be accepted until June 5. The study is available for review at: Colbert Elementary school; North Spokane Public Library, East 44 Hawthorne, Colbert; and Ecology's regional office at North 4601 Monroe, Suite 100, Spokane.

The comments should be sent to the following: Fred Gardner, c/o HW Cleanup Program, Department of Ecology, Mail Stop PV-11, Olympia, WA 98504.

The Colbert Landfill is on the EPA National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites for cleanup under the Superfund program. The 40-acre

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sanitary landfill was named as the source of ground water contamination by consultants hired by the Ecology department.

Several alternatives have been proposed by the consultants for the cleanup effort. The consultants recommend pumping the contaminated waters up from the ground, exposing it to the air (aeration) and discharging the cleaned water into Little Deep creek and the Little Spokane river.

"We are asking the public to consider the consultant's recommendations as well as other alternatives in the report. It is important we get the views of those people in the area who will be impacted in the future," Gardner said.